

THE BOSTON  
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. II.]

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1829.

[No. 11.]

I.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

[We have so frequently heard the sentiment expressed by intelligent members of the faculty, that the true test of the merits of a candidate for a medical degree, is, after all, his *examination*, that we are induced to copy the following spirited article from the Medico-Chirurgical Review, although some parts of it are better adapted to the stormy state of the profession in England, than to its more peaceable and dignified condition among ourselves.]

AMONG the speculations which are daily vomited forth by the medical press respecting radical changes—declamations which are eminently calculated to prevent all moderate and rational reform, by deterring influential members of the profession from joining in the cry—we shall here notice the project of *testing* all candidates for medical diplomas or license, by the EXAMINATIONS ALONE, without any production of documents respecting the time, place, or amount of previous medical education or study. A more wild, dangerous, and visionary plan was never engendered in the brain of the most fiery fanatic or levelling enthusiast. It argues a monstrous

lack of knowledge of the world. In the first place, we challenge the proposers to show any country in which it is acted on. Certainly not in those where the scrutiny is most rigorous—as, for example, in Paris. It is almost impossible that examinations can be carried on by tests more effectual for sifting the candidate's qualifications to the very bottom, than at Paris:—but does the Parisian Faculty dispense with the proofs of *how, when and where* the knowledge was obtained? By no means. These documents are rigidly demanded, and must be produced before the ordeal is commenced. The Parisian examiners are men who have studied their profession, and who know the difference between learning and knowledge. They are well aware that the *mode* of acquiring information is a circumstance of the highest importance—and that the mere capability of answering questions, however *ingeniously* devised, does not constitute the criterion of knowledge. They have wisely, therefore, enforced the production of preliminary proofs, *how, when, and where* the knowledge was acquired. We shall now descend to a few particulars—appealing, not to the *chamber practitioner*, who issues his Utopian speculations from a

heated imagination, but to those who, from actual observation and experience, are capable of judging on this point.

I. PHARMACY.—No one will accuse us of advocating the present system of indenture, which we believe to be double, if not triple, the duration it ought to be. But we maintain that no man can practise either physic or surgery (much less pharmacy) well, who does not possess some practical knowledge, not merely of the properties, chemical constituents, and doses of medicinal agents, but of the *manipulation and extemporaneous composition* of the same, whether these last be learnt behind the counter of the chemist, in the private surgery of the general practitioner, or in the pharmacy of the hospital or dispensary. Now it is utterly impossible that a court of examiners can ask any pharmaceutical questions that may not be answered from what is taught in lectures on *materia medica*, or what is printed in the Dispensatories—unless, indeed, they keep a shop on one side of the Hall, and compel the candidates to boil decoctions, filter tinctures, roll pills, and compound mixtures. The certificate or proof of “actual service,” in this department of the medical state, cannot, therefore, be dispensed with, unless we admit that pharmacy, learnt in books or lectures, is as good as that learnt by the actual practice of the same.

II. ANATOMY.—Of all the branches of medical or surgical science, anatomy is that which might be best ascertained by an examination. But we are convinced that, even here, the new or Utopian plan would break down. The whole of descriptive

anatomy—the whole science of pathology, may be more *peritly* learnt from books, or even grinders,\* than by actual dissection. All *viva voce* questions, then, might be answered by means of the very worst species of study—*cramming*. But, says the reformer, we shall have skeletons, vascular and neurological subjects—dried muscular extremities on the table—and, by these, we shall find out the candidate's anatomical knowledge. Vain expectation! On all these *subjects*, the grinder can descant, and the student can get crammed. “Then (says the projector of the new scheme) we shall have *brains* (if such can be found) in every court of examiners, and each candidate shall demonstrate the various parts of the encephalon.” Who shall find subjects—who shall find time for this species of manual anatomy? The thing is impracticable—and, if practicable, it ought not to supersede the proofs of the *quo modo* in which the anatomical knowledge is obtained.

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\* The trade of a *grinder* is fortunately unknown in this country. It is crowded in Great Britain. His business is to find out the general tenor of the questions put to young gentlemen at medical examinations, and all such as are most likely to be put from the knowledge, character, tastes, habits, or peculiarities of each examiner. For a small fee, candidates are taken in charge a few weeks immediately preceding their examinations, and so thoroughly plied with these questions, and saturated with the proper replies, that it requires absolutely very little professional attainment to appear well before the august assembly. It is very evident that knowledge thus cursorily and speedily and easily acquired, must be very soon lost, and hence the force of this part of Dr. Johnson's argument. Although we have no grinders in this country, yet, if the same system which is proposed in England were adopted here, they would doubtless rise up among us in great profusion.—ED.

III. SURGERY.—The plan under consideration would tend to abridge the study of surgical diseases, by the toilsome and expensive mode of actual observation in hospitals and dispensaries; while it would encourage the accumulation of technical descriptions from books and "GRINDERS," in the former of which, the symptoms of surgical diseases, and the steps of surgical operations, are minutely laid down. This species of surgical erudition would make a better figure in the examination, than that which was acquired by ocular observation in hospitals, or by oral instructions from teachers. How much superior the *latter* is, we need not stop to prove.

IV. CLINICAL MEDICINE.—This, the most important of all the medical studies, cannot be conveyed by means of books, or even of *viva voce* lectures—nor can any species of examination ascertain the candidate's proficiency in it—unless there was a ward of sick patients attached to the examination hall. The only security, then, for clinical study, is the written proof of hospital attendance, which proof the wild radical plan of reform would dispense with. This fact alone, which cannot be questioned, is sufficient to condemn the proposed test of medical and surgical qualifications—a test which, if fully acted on, would do all in its power to depress the regular teacher—patronize the grinder—and imbue the medical student with technical, instead of practical, knowledge!

We have noticed this chimerical proposal, not from an idea that it will ever be entertained by any faculty, between Terra del Fuego and Lapland, but to

show the medical student the grounds of discontent, by which he is excited into hostility against those who are, by law, entrusted with his examination. That there is ample field for beneficial reform in our systems of medical education, in this country, we have often shown; but the wild ravings of a few visionary reformers have driven the period for its investigation to an indefinite distance. This is already too plainly proved. No human power—no play on the human passions, could now aggregate a dozen of *respectable* reformers in the Freemasons' Tavern—or draw half that number of petitions to Parliament from the united empire! Yet the same state of things now exists as in 1826. We are told, indeed, by the radical press, that peace and perfect unanimity obtain throughout all ranks of the profession; and that they only wait the return of Spring, to burst forth, in a storm of virtuous indignation, against their oppressors! This is a curious kind of tranquillity. The fact is, a few half-cracked agitators have made sensible men shrink from every kind of participation with them; and the agitators, being now left to themselves, they call it "PEACE!" "*Ubi solitudinem faciunt PACEM appellant.*" Under existing circumstances, there is not the remotest chance or hope of medical reform, except what may flow from the spontaneous concessions of the constituted authorities. Half a dozen medical Cobbetts have done more mischief than fifty medical Burdetts can repair! The corporate bodies now smile at their opponents, whose ranks are deserted, in consequence of leaders, with whom Falstaff's

gang, with Bardolf at their head, would be ashamed to associate! Yet we think it would be wise in these corporate bodies, to seize this favorable opportunity for introducing liberal and enlightened measures, corresponding with the more extended views of modern times. It would be infinitely more graceful, that such measures should flow spontaneously from the constituted authorities, than that they should be exacted by popular clamor. A time may come, when the respectable members of the profession may think fit to form a strong and united phalanx, in favor of medical REFORM, after the ridicule and degradation attached to the word, and even to the measure, by the interference of the present advocates, shall have subsided. The voice of the profession must then be heard; and it must have a great moral force when divested of the "RIBALDRY" with which it is now associated.

## II.

### CONFESSIONS OF BURKE IN THE GAOL.

*Edinburgh, Jan. 3d, 1829.*

An old pensioner, named Donald, lived in the house about Christmas, 1827; he was in bad health, and died a short time before his quarter's pension was due; that he owed Hare 4*l.*; and a day or two after the pensioner's death, Hare proposed that his body should be sold to the doctors, and that the declarant should get a share of the price. Declarant said it was impossible to do it, because the man would be coming in with the coffin immediately; but after the body was put into the coffin, and the lid was nailed

down, Hare started the lid with a chisel, and he and declarant took out the corpse and concealed it in the bed, and put tanner's bark, from behind the house, into the coffin, and covered it with a sheet, and nailed down the lid of the coffin, and the coffin was then carried away for interment. That Hare did not appear to have been concerned in anything of the kind before, and seemed to be at a loss how to get the body disposed of, and he and Hare went in the evening to the yard of the college, and saw a person like a student there, and the declarant asked him if there were any of Dr. Monro's men about, because he did not know there was any way of disposing of a dead body, nor did Hare. The young man asked what they wanted with Dr. Monro, and the declarant told him that he had a subject to dispose of, and the young man referred him to Dr. Knox, No. 10, Surgeon's Square, and they went there, and saw young gentlemen, whom he knows to be Jones, Miller, and Ferguson, and told them that they had a subject to dispose of, but they did not ask how they had obtained it; and they told the declarant and Hare to come back when it was dark, and that they themselves would find a porter to carry it. Declarant and Hare went home, and put the body into a sack, and carried it to Surgeon's Square, and not knowing how to dispose of it, laid it down at the door of the cellar, and went up to the room, where the three young men saw them, and told them to bring up the body to the room, which they did, and they took the body out of the sack, and laid it on the dissecting table; that the shirt was on the body,

but the young men asked no questions as to that, and the declarant and Hare, at their desire, took off the shirt, and got 7*l.* 10*s.* Dr. Knox came in after the shirt was taken off, and looked at the body, and proposed that they should get 7*l.* 10*s.*, and authorized Jones to settle with them; and he asked no questions as to how the body had been obtained. Hare got 4*l.* 5*s.*, and the declarant got 3*l.* 5*s.* Jones, &c., said, they would be glad to see them again when they had any other body to dispose of.

Early last spring, 1828, a woman from Gilmerton came to Hare's house as a nightly lodger, Hare keeping seven beds for lodgers: that she was a stranger, and she and Hare became merry, and drank together, and next morning she was very ill in consequence of what she had ate, and she sent for more drink, and she and Hare drank together; and she became very sick and vomited, and that time she had not risen from the bed, and Hare then said that they would try and smother her, in order to dispose of her body to the doctors. That she was lying on her back in the bed, and quite insensible from drink, and Hare clapped his hand on her mouth and nose, and the declarant laid himself across her body, in order to prevent her making any disturbance, and she never stirred, and they took her out of bed and undressed her, and put her into a chest.

The next was a man named Joseph, a miller, and lying badly in the house. That he got some drink from declarant and Hare, but was not tipsy; he was very ill, lying in bed, and could not speak sometimes, and there was a report on that account that

there was fever in the house, which made Hare and his wife uneasy, in case it should keep away lodgers, and they (declarant and Hare) agreed that they should suffocate him for the same purpose, and the declarant got a small pillow and laid it across Joseph's mouth, and Hare lay across the body to keep down the arms and legs, and he was disposed of in the same manner.

In May, 1828, as he thinks, an old woman came to the house as a lodger, and she was the worse for drink, and she got more drink of her own accord, and she became very drunk, and declarant suffocated her; and Hare was not in the house at the time; and she was disposed of in the same manner.

Soon after an Englishman lodged there for some nights, and he was ill of the jaundice; that he was in bed very unwell, and Hare and declarant got above and held him down, and, by holding him down, suffocated him, and disposed of him in the same manner.

Shortly afterwards, an old woman named Haldane (but he knows nothing farther of her) lodged in the house, and she had got some drink at the time, and got more to intoxicate her, and he and Hare suffocated her, and disposed of her in the same manner.

Soon afterwards, a cinder-woman came to the house as a lodger, as he believes, and she got drink from Hare and the declarant, and became tipsy, and she was half asleep, and he and Hare suffocated her, and disposed of her in the same manner.

About midsummer, 1828, a woman, with her son or grandson, about twelve years of age, and who seemed to be weak in his

mind, came to the house as lodgers; the woman got a dram, and when in bed asleep, he and Hare suffocated her; and the boy was sitting at the fire in the kitchen, and he and Hare took hold of him, and carried him into the room, and suffocated him.

That soon afterwards the declarant brought a woman to the house as a lodger, and after some days she got drunk, and was disposed of in the same manner. That declarant and Hare generally tried if lodgers would drink, and if they would drink they were disposed of in that manner.

The declarant then went for a few days to the house of Helen M'Dougal's father, and when he returned, he learned from Hare that he had disposed of a woman in the declarant's absence, in the same manner, in his own house; but the declarant does not know the woman's name, or any further particulars of the case, or whether any other person was present, or knew of it.

That about this time he went to live in Broggan's house, and a woman named Margaret Haldane, daughter of the woman Haldane before mentioned, and whose sister is married to Clark, a tin-smith in the High Street, came into the house, but the declarant does not remember for what purpose; and she was disposed of in the same manner. That Hare was not present, and neither Broggan nor his son knew the least thing about that, or any other case of the same kind.

That in April, 1828, he fell in with the girl Paterson and her companion, in Constantine Burke's house, and they had breakfast together, and he sent for Hare, and he and Hare disposed of her

in the same manner; and Mr. Ferguson and a tall lad, who seemed to have known the woman by sight, asked where they had got the body; and the declarant said he had purchased it from an old woman at the back of the Canongate. The body was disposed of five or six hours after the girl was killed.

One day in September or October, 1828, a washer-woman had been washing in the house for some time, and he and Hare suffocated her, and disposed of her in the same manner.

Soon afterwards a woman, named M'Dougal, who was a distant relation of Helen M'Dougal's first husband, came to Broggan's house to see M'Dougal; and after she had been coming and going to the house for a few days, she got drunk, and was served in the same way by the declarant and Hare.

That "Daft Jamie" was then disposed of in the manner mentioned in the indictment, except that Hare was concerned in it. That Hare was lying alongside of Jamie in the bed, and Hare suddenly turned on him, and put his hand on his mouth and nose; and Jamie, who had got drunk, but was not drunk, made a terrible resistance, and he and Hare fell from the bed together, Hare still keeping hold of Jamie's mouth and nose; and as they lay on the floor together, declarant lay across Jamie, to prevent him from resisting, and they held him in that state till he was dead, and he was disposed of in the same manner; and Hare took a brass snuff-box and a spoon from Jamie's pocket, and kept the box to himself, and never gave it to the declarant, but he gave him the spoon.

And the last was the old woman Docherty, for whose murder he has been convicted. That she was not put to death in the manner deponed to by Hare on the trial. That during the scuffle between him and Hare, in the course of which he was nearly strangled by Hare, Docherty had crept among the straw, and after the scuffle was over, they had some drink, and after that they both went forward to where the woman was lying sleeping, and Hare went forward first, and seized her by the mouth and nose, as on former occasions; and at the same time the declarant lay across her, and she had no opportunity of making any noise; and before she was dead, one or other of them, he does not recollect which, took hold of her by the throat. That while he and Hare were struggling, which was a real scuffle, M'Dougal opened the door of the apartment, and went into the inner passage and knocked at the door, and called out police and murder, but soon came back; and at the same time Hare's wife called out, never to mind, because the declarant and Hare would not hurt one another. That whenever he and Hare rose and went towards the straw where Docherty was lying, M'Dougal and Hare's wife, who, he thinks, were lying in bed at the time, or, perhaps, were at the fire, immediately rose and left the house, but did not make any noise, so far as he heard, and he was surprised at their going out that time, because he did not see how they could have any suspicions of what they (the declarant and Hare) intended doing. That he cannot say whether he and Hare would have killed Docherty or not, if the women

had remained, because they were so determined to kill the woman, the drink being in their head.

### III.

#### RE-VACCINATION IN FRANCE.

It will be recollected that the habit of re-vaccination was recommended by Dr. Robbins in an early number of our Journal. As it was recommended in the hope that if such a practice were general it might prove a preventive of the varioloid, and with a view to draw the attention of medical gentlemen to the suggestion, we think it an object to record every well authenticated case which appears to throw light on so important a subject. To such cases, whether they count in favor of, or against the practice, our pages will be open.

The following case, with the introductory remarks by the Editors of the *Révue Médicale*, was translated from the French, and communicated for this Journal, by Dr. WARREN, of Plymouth, who we shall be happy to number among the frequent contributors to our work.

From the *Revue Médicale* for August, 1828.

#### *Reflections on Re-vaccination.*—

THAT cases of smallpox after vaccination do occasionally occur, is a fact now well ascertained. The causes of these attacks, notwithstanding the animated discussions to which the subject has given rise, are not easily determined, and it would therefore seem more useful to ascertain whether such accidents can be prevented by a re-vaccination. Dr. Boffinet has instituted inquiries on this point, which will be read with interest. Without absolutely rejecting any of the opi-



nions hitherto advanced, he regards them all as very doubtful. Has the vaccine virus lost any of its efficacy? Does it, in some subjects, not entirely destroy the susceptibility of again contracting the vaccine, and consequently, the smallpox? Or is its prophylactic power limited to a certain period? These are important questions, which diversified experience will alone enable us satisfactorily to answer. We proceed to cite the facts stated by M. Boffinet.

"My wife, aged 28, was vaccinated in 1801, twenty-seven years since. Four cicatrices, now remaining on the upper part of both arms, and which, in the opinion of competent judges, are such as result from the vaccine vesicle, sufficiently prove the regular progress of the disease. She was among the first in this country who enjoyed the benefit of this preventive, and everything conducing to an attentive observation of the progress of a discovery which promised such advantages, and was then the subject of so much contradiction. This strict observation, I have learnt, left no doubt as to the nature of the vesicles in her case. May 6, 1828, after having vaccinated a number of children, I made, with a lancet, two insertions of the vaccine matter on the anterior part of her left forearm. In selecting this place, I did not calculate on the success of the experiment. The child from which I took the virus, and to which I had communicated it a week previous, was nine months old, robust, healthy, and presenting on each arm two fine vesicles, hollowed in the centre, encircled with a bright red areola, and full of a perfectly transpa-

rent liquid, which flowed in drops at the punctures made to collect it. I was certain that the progress of the vesicle in this child had been regular, the eruption commencing about the end of the third day.

"May 10.—The two punctures made in the forearm, which had hitherto scarcely excited any attention, now presented a small red pimple, and a slight hardness was distinctly perceptible to the touch.

"11.—This pimple had increased, become circular, and depressed in the centre,—the red circle enlarged,—slight itching.

"12 and 13.—The areola more distinct and brighter; the lenticular vesicle become more elevated, and central depression greater.

"14.—A red point in the centre of the vesicle, surrounded by a whitish, limpid fluid; the areola somewhat enlarged.

"15.—The vesicles are well filled, the areola more extended, and the subjacent cellular tissue inflamed; the fluid still clear.

"Having, from the progress of the disease, not the least doubt of its nature, I this day showed it to several persons, and particularly to three physicians, who have long practised vaccination in this city. They all recognized at once the development of the vaccine vesicle. The crusts became greyish, fell off on the 30th day, and left two indented (*faveolées*) cicatrices, in every respect similar to those on the upper part of the arm.

"Wishing to give additional force to this conclusive experiment, I vaccinated three children the same day, May 15, with virus taken from my wife.

"1. The result in the first, aged



15 months, from four insertions, was very satisfactory. The vaccine went through its stages regularly, as I ascertained by personal observation.

"2. In the two others, one of 3 months, the other of 3 years, I made two punctures in the left arm with the same virus. Two other punctures were made on the right arm of each, with vaccine from another source. All the four vesicles were developed with equal regularity, and furnished the genuine matter.

"3. On the same day, I placed the same virus on plates of glass, and on the 19th, vaccinated with it two children, one of 8 months, the other of 2. In both, the disease showed itself in its usual form.

"4. The same day, I again re-vaccinated my wife,—two days after, however, there was no trace of the puncture.

"What are we to conclude from these facts?—that my wife was destined to have smallpox twice, or that the four vesicles developed in 1801 had not sufficiently neutralized the virus of smallpox,—or rather, that this was one of those rare cases, in which, according to Hufeland, the vaccine does not completely destroy the susceptibility of contracting smallpox? Whatever theory we may adopt, the experiment is not less valuable, by proving the possibility of the success of a repeated vaccination. Nor can there be a doubt that this second operation, when it succeeds, is of advantage,—to what extent, time and numerous experiments can alone determine.

"No objection, either as respects the disease itself or the person vaccinated, is opposed to

the repetition of this experiment. The pain of a slight puncture and of the eruption of a few vesicles is trifling, compared with the advantages of this new operation,—advantages, which, although still problematical, ought certainly to excite the attention of those who would properly appreciate the benefits of so valuable a discovery as that of vaccination.

"Everything, therefore, invites to a repetition of vaccination in the same individual, even more than once. I am of opinion, also, that it would be proper to subject to it persons who bear the marks of mild smallpox. Encouraged by the success I have obtained, and regardless of the ridicule which has been thrown on these attempts, I propose to extend and vary these experiments, for it is only by the aid of long experience and extended observation that we can arrive at the limits of possible attainment."

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#### CLINICAL REPORTS.

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MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL.

*Wound of Hand—Inflammation and Abscess of Vein—Abscesses in Liver.*

THIS is a case remarkable for the fatal termination of a slight injury; probably from its being neglected in the first stage. The patient's constitution must have been in a bad state, though in appearance he exhibited no marks of such state.

March 17.—E. C., of M., about two months since cut the index finger of the left hand, near the first joint, though the wound was trifling at the time, and required no particular attention. In a few days the wound inflamed very much and became painful. Various emollient

applications were made, but were not sufficient to arrest the disease. Ulceration took place, and the bones of the second and third phalanges were denuded some distance from the joint.

He at this time had the finger amputated at the second joint. The wound did perfectly well the first week, after which time an abscess formed between the second and third joints, and immediately over the tendons of the digital flexors. The flap at this time had united over the end of the stump. In a day or two after this, two or more abscesses formed in the palm of the hand and over the metacarpal of the fore finger. These abscesses were laid open, and endeavors made to have them fill up by granulation, but to no purpose. They were attended with considerable pain and swelling, as consequents of an inflammation, which extended over most of the hand and up the arm. The abscess over the first phalanx of the finger extended to the bone. Cataplasms were ordered to the hand, and evaporating lotions to the arm.

General health has always been good, and is now so. Patient is a large, stout, and muscular man.

19.—Patient had his hand placed firmly upon a table, the palm looking upwards; a deep incision was then made, beginning about over the junction of the carpal and metacarpal bones, and carried downward through the abscesses to the end of the stump. The end of the bone belonging to the stump was naked, and removed by sawing, just below the third joint. Wound was dressed with lint and simple cerate; bleeding at the time of operation small.

20.—Hand not very painful last night; slept considerable; bandages are stiff from bleeding since operation, and *uncommonly fetid*. Ordered to be removed, and clean ones to be substituted. Appetite tolerable; bowels costive. May have cathartic.

21.—Hand bled very copiously last night, in consequence of keeping it too warm, to prevent taking cold. Hemorrhage was easily arrested by admitting cold air to wound. This morning, feels very well; has good appetite. May have house diet.

24.—Wound looks well, and filling up with healthy granulations; is washed twice a day, and dressed with lint and resinous ointment.

26.—Yesterday had a severe chill, followed by copious perspiration; countenance materially changed, within a few days; now morbid; appetite wanting; pulse full; complains of burning and distress in epigastrium; pain in right shoulder. Ordered repeated doses of the solution of antimony, till vomiting be produced, and an alterative pill at night.

27.—Antimony did not produce much vomiting yesterday, but passed off by the bowels; in the evening had a recurrence of the chills, and rigors. This morning, tongue dry, and covered with a thick dark coat; pulse 120; strength somewhat diminished; appetite wanting.

28.—Yesterday, at the time a chill was apprehended, an attempt was made to vomit the patient, but it was not successful. Had a chill; suffered great distress about the epigastric region; took compound calomel pill at night; had no quiet sleep; tongue now as yesterday; teeth covered with sordes; lips dry; countenance sunken; conjunctiva of eye very yellow.

29.—Much yesterday as day before. Symptoms unfavorable; bowels costive. May have the compound infusion of senna, 3iv., immediately.

30.—Cathartic did not operate. Repeat it to-day, and if no evacuation by evening, give enema.

31.—No operation from medicine, and enemata proved ineffectual. To-day give croton oil, calomel, and aloes. May have cider, or wine and water for drink.

April 1.—Had four dejections,

copious, dark, foetid; not attended with much debility; have afforded some relief to uneasiness felt at epigastrium. May have tonics to-day, unless contraindicated.

2.—Evacuations were frequent yesterday, and last night in other respects as before.

6.—Has been no important change during the few last days. Patient has gradually lost strength; has been inclined to a relax from the bowels; has taken wine, cider, brandy and water, barks, &c. Chills have recurred almost daily, attended with some delirium.

9.—On the 7th and 8th was much as before. To-day, is very low; comatose; aroused with great difficulty; pulse scarcely perceptible at the wrist; eyes half closed; breath short and quick; wound continued to heal rapidly, even after the system was much diseased and much reduced.

10.—Examination of the body by Dr. Warren, fifteen hours after death. *Thorax* presented nothing unnatural, except an old adhesion of the pleuras on the right side. Nothing found unnatural in the heart, except a slight induration of the veins of the semilunar valves.

*Abdomen.*—Here the liver was found somewhat enlarged, particularly the right lobe. Aspect of the organ changed; color various; in parts unnaturally light; near convex surface of right lobe was found an abscess, an inch or more in diameter, filled with a greenish pus. The organ now raised from its natural situation, on its under and concave surface was found another abscess, nearly as large as the first; a third was found in centre of right lobe, all similar in character; whole organ had lost its natural tenacity, and could be torn in any direction with a very slight degree of force. Gall bladder and its ducts natural.

Stomach found natural. Omentum unusually loaded with fat; in all respects healthy. This organ being turned upwards, the pancreas was

carefully noticed; found enlarged, by one quarter of its natural size; the whole gland much indurated, and lighter colored than usual.

*Diseased hand and arm.*—The wound on the hand had nearly healed; what remained unhealed a few days before the death of the patient, assumed a bad character, appearing gangrenous. Separate from the wound, there were no marks of disease in the hand or forearm. The cellular substance about the brachial nerve was found unnaturally dense, and adherent to the vessel; the coats of the vessel thickened, and containing purulent matter; between this point and the axillary vein, less marks of disease. In axilla, distinct marks of disease; coats of vein thickened; hard; cellular membrane surrounding it much changed; in the vessel was found pus and blood, amounting to half an ounce; beyond this point, no traces of disease could be discovered; glands not enlarged, nor changed from the proper appearance.

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BOSTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1829.

#### PARAPLEGIA EPIDEMIC.

In this age of novel epidemics, our readers will feel no surprise at the combination of words which appears at the head of this article. General paralysis has been of so frequent occurrence in Paris, for the last one or two years, that M. Bally, the Physician to La Pitié, considers it as exhibiting a kind of epidemic character. The distinguishing symptoms of the disease have been "a sense of numbness and tingling in the hands and feet, accompanied by a morbid sensibility in the surface, and an almost total loss of voluntary motion." This disease is attributed by M. Bally to some peculiarity in the atmosphere.

In some instances it has proved fatal, though the generality of those attacked have recovered. The mode of treatment appears to have been regulated by general principles. The single remedy which has proved most decidedly efficacious is Strychnine. This has been exhibited in doses of one-eighth of a grain *per diem*, gradually increased, in some cases, to three grains, and assisted by moxas to the spine.

Our Parisian friends are also favored by a visit from the Dengue, of which disease some notice has already appeared in this Journal. It seems to assume there a decidedly intermittent character, and has been considered by eminent men in the profession as of the neuralgic order, and a malarious origin.

Among ourselves, though exempted from any epidemic, there appears a degree of *periodical* tendency in the complaints of the season. In affections of the chest, attended by cough, the cough has appeared, during the past winter, to come on in severer paroxysms than usual, and to leave the patient more free from a sense of irritation in the intervals. As far as our own observation has gone, this has been very general; and after the recovery has so far advanced as to render professional attendance unnecessary, these paroxysms have continued, abating gradually in length and violence, till subdued at last by the curative power of nature. Antispasmodics have proved, in our hands, wholly insufficient to arrest this morbid *habit*. So, also, with painful affections of the head. Intermittent headaches have been frequent,

and have generally yielded to large doses of quinine or of bark, after active emetics, purgatives, leeches, and the lancet, had been tried to no purpose. We should like to be informed if the diseases throughout the country have partaken more than usual of an intermittent or periodical character, and whether the preparations of bark have been called for more than usual in their treatment.

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#### CLIMATE OF BARBADOES FOR CONSUMPTIVE PERSONS.

INDIVIDUALS who have visited Italy, Madeira, and Barbadoes, for the purpose of recovery from incipient Phthisis, have given the decided preference to the latter resort. The climate of Barbadoes is particularly serene and delightful during the months of December, January, February, March, and April,—the period when consumptive persons in our latitude feel most the want of a mild and balmy atmosphere. The surface of the tropical island is more level than that of Madeira, and the facilities for exercise consequently greater. Dr. Johnson recommends this winter residence for "patients affected with tubercles in the lungs, not yet advanced to the softened state,—and to those who have had hæmoptysis, but who have not actually purulent expectoration." Before and after the period above mentioned, the climate of this island is not such as to render it a desirable resort for valetudinarians,—hurricanes and heavy rains preceding, and excessive heat coming on after it.

## POISONING BY CHEESE.

ALTHOUGH cases of poison from cheese are not uncommon, yet, as far as we have been able to learn, no chemical analysis has yet detected the substance to which such injury is to be attributed. It is hence concluded that the pernicious quality of the cheese must depend on some article eaten by the cow, which, in the process of lactification, has undergone such changes as to elude the tests of the chemist, without destroying its power of deranging the functions of system when received into the stomach.

The only objection which has appeared to invalidate this explanation is, that "we never meet with similar effects produced by drinking milk." This objection is sure to be brought up by the by-standers, when, in attending on a case such as we have alluded to, the physician offers the above explanation to quiet the inquiries of the curious, which come to him with so much earnestness from every direction;—the profession will thank us, therefore, for furnishing a wrinkle so exceedingly desirable on such occasions. Several cases of poisoning by milk are related in the French *Journal Général de Médecine*. The milk which proved so deleterious to all who drank it, was of a goat, and it is supposed to have been affected by some sour broth which she had taken,—the broth having been left to sour in a copper vessel.

## PRESSURE IN ASCITES.

DR. SPERDUZA, an Italian physician, has successfully applied the principle

of pressure to a case of watery effusion into the cavity of the abdomen. The patient was a female, who had labored under the disease some months. It was originally caused by peritoneal inflammation succeeding accouchment. At the time the pressure was applied, the distention was very great, emaciation general, and the appearance of the patient cachectic. The strength was greatly reduced by a slow fever and protracted nursing; the digestive functions deranged; the urine scanty and turbid; thirst urgent; bowels constipated; and the usual course of diuretics, mercurials, &c., had been resorted to without benefit.

Pressure was applied to the abdomen by means of Monro's bandage; and under its influence, the quantity of urine increased, until at length it amounted to fifteen pints daily. At the expiration of the third week, the abdominal tumor had entirely subsided, and the cure was completed by sulphate of iron, squills, and a generous diet.

This is certainly a remarkably fortunate case. Could we point to twenty such, the practice might be recommended with confidence. As it is, the trial ought, perhaps, to be made in obstinate cases, though we can hardly suppress our fears that the cure of this lady must have been owing to some other influence than that of the bandage.

## BLISTERS IN MEASLES.

SEVERAL cases have been related in recent foreign journals, in which the symptoms of measles were rendered lighter by the early use of blisters.

It is said this practice very considerably diminishes that pulmonary irritation, which, in itself and its consequences, is usually the greatest evil attendant on the disease. We can add nothing from personal experience, never having resorted to vesication *before the appearance of the eruption*. The authorities on which it is recommended are entitled to confidence, and we therefore present it to the view of the profession.

#### CHIRAYITA BARK.

This bark appears to be at present quite fashionable in England. It is supposed to be particularly suited to cases of indigestion; as a stomachic and tonic medicine, it is *said to be* superior to the Cinchona. We have not as yet sufficient practical evidence of this superiority to recommend the article in very distinct or strong terms. It is here noticed with a view only of referring to a case of Leucorrhœa, attended with indigestion, in which the extract of the Chirayita was successfully used by Dr. Blundell. He prescribed a drachm of the extract, with five grains of powdered cinnamon, to be taken several times a day.

#### TENIA.

THE essential oil of wormwood seeds has been used with success in cases of tenia. A case is related in one of the European Journals, in which 10 drops of this oil, in conjunction with 10 grains of calomel, brought away a tape worm, ten feet in length.

*Vapor of Iodine for the Cure of Consumption.*—A letter from Dr. Berton was lately read before the

Royal Society of Medicine, respecting the employment of the above-named medicinal agent in cases of tubercular consumption. This mode of using iodine appears to the author to have a double advantage—first, in not producing gastric irritation; and being also immediately applied to the diseased part, he produces the vapor by the application of sulphuric acid to the hydriodate of potash. Air loaded with this vapor does not excite the least irritation in the throat. M. Berton cites three cases in which this method was productive of good effects: in two of them the cough and expectoration were diminished, and the appetite improved; in the third, although the plan had not been long adopted, the relief was evident. M. Berton thinks that a greater number of facts are still required to enable us to pronounce an opinion as to the real value of this medicine.

#### *Journal Hebdomadaire.*

*Inflammation of the Veins of the Uterus after Parturition.*—M. Dance, in a memoir just published on Uterine Phlebitis, has related from his own observation, and from the works of Andral and Louis, eleven cases of fatal inflammation of the veins of the uterus, with the appearances which were witnessed on dissection. This most dangerous form of uterine inflammation was observed to commence most frequently a few days after delivery, with rigors, general uneasiness, suppression of the lochia, and pain and sense of weight in the hypogastrium. The size and sensibility of the uterus gradually increased, the expression of the countenance became greatly altered, and prostration of strength, with delirium, and other symptoms of typhoid fever, rapidly succeeded, and destroyed the patients. This disease was observed in several cases to be complicated with extensive disorganization in remote organs of the body. In three cases severe pulmonary symptoms occurred, and on dissection purulent

deposits were found in the substance of the lungs, with pleuritis and effusion into the sac of the pleura.

In another case an inflammatory swelling suddenly formed around one of the joints. The veins of the uterus were in most of these cases found inflamed, and in a state of suppuration, and the substance of the uterus had become preternaturally soft, and of a dark color. In two, the peritoneal surface of the uterus was covered with lymph.—*Archives Générales de Médecine, December, 1828.*

**Unusual Length of the Umbilical Chord.**—In the obstetrical observations of Dr. Schneider, of Fulda, a case is related, in which, during a very tedious labor, the contractions of the uterus having been almost instantaneously excited by a large dose of secale cornutum, a male child was born, apparently asphyxiated by the pressure of the umbilical chord, which was twisted *six times* round its neck; but having been immediately extricated, the child was restored to life; the umbilical chord was five feet five inches in length.

In another case related by the same author, the umbilical chord went twice round the neck, and once round the trunk, from whence it passed between the thighs to the placenta. Besides this unusual length, it exhibited a *real knot*, which, as appeared from the gelatinous substance of the chord, had existed a long time before birth.

*Siebold. Journ. fur Geburtsch.*

**Fever of Gibraltar.**—A letter from M. Louis was lately read at the sitting of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Paris. From this it appears that in his opinion the fever is really the true yellow fever of the Antilles. Ten subjects had been opened by the Commission; in none of them could the slightest trace of organic lesion be discovered; thus

making a most marked difference between this disease and the fatal cases of fever usually met with in France. The epidemic, after having been stationary for a time, or rather, perhaps, diminished, resumed its activity; a dozen or fifteen cases were daily admitted into the hospital, of whom from five to eight died: some perished very quickly, that is, on the third or fourth day of the disease. After this the frequency of the disease gradually diminished, till it entirely subsided.

#### NOTICES.

BOOKSELLERS, PUBLISHERS and AUTHORS, are informed, that by transmitting to the Editor, free of expense, a copy of such works as they may write or publish on subjects interesting to the medical profession, they will be entitled to a notice of such works in the pages of the Journal.

Dr. GILBERT's case of amputation is acknowledged, and will appear next week.

Dr. WARREN's remarks on his cases of Neuralgia will also appear in the next number.

Dr. JONES, of Georgia, having had the civility to forward us a copy of his Essay versus Malaria, it will receive early attention.

DIED,—In this city, April 13th, Hon. David Townsend, M.D. æt. 76.

In Salem, on the 31st of March, Edward Augustus Holyoke, M.D. L.L.D., æt. 100.

#### WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

Ending April 17, at noon.

Of abscess, 1—apoplexy, 1—brain fever, 1—consumption, 6—convulsions, 1—inflammation in the bowels, 1—old age, 2—pleurisy, 1—worms, 1—unknown, 4. Males, 10—females, 9. Stillborn, 2. Total, 21.



## ADVERTISEMENTS.

## DENTAL SURGERY.

**T**HIS day received by Benjamin Perkins & Co., No. 135, Washington Street,—A SYSTEM OF DENTAL SURGERY. In three parts.

1. Dental Surgery as a Science.
2. Operative Dental Surgery.
3. Pharmacy connected with Dental Surgery.

By SAMUEL SHELDON FITCH, M.D., Surgeon Dentist. *Denticum curam habeto ut bene digeras et diu vivas; laxatis dentibus laxantur et chylaceos officinæ; hinc mille malorum occasiones.*—Baglivi XIII. March 17.

ep6w

## LONDON STATIONARY, &amp;c.

**J**UST received by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, Crown and Double Crown Tissue Paper, large thin Bath Letter Paper; Billet Paper, Demy and Royal Bristol Board, do. do. London Board, Newman's Carmine, Music Paper.

**A** COPY of Bloomfield's Critical Digest of Sacred Annotation on the Gospels, 3 vols. 8vo. "The most learned Commentary in the English language." For sale by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.

## CASEY'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF DISTORTED SPINE.

**T**HE Proprietor of the Dormant Balance for the cure of Distorted Spine, gives notice, that he has established an agency in this city, for the convenience of those who may wish to avail themselves of this invention. Physicians having under their care the subjects of this disease, or patients themselves, may have an opportunity of inspecting the apparatus, and examining the testimonials of its efficacy, at Mr. Charles White's, corner of Winter Street. It is recommended, however, that all patients availing themselves of this invention, should do it by the advice, and under the superintendence, of their own physicians, as it is only by medical opinion that the proper subjects of the machine can be deter-

mined, or the other proper measures to be made use of in conjunction with it, can be pointed out. The Proprietor expressly disclaims the idea that a cure is to be effected, in any case, by mechanical means alone. This machine has received the approbation of many of the most eminent medical men in this city and New-York. Upon application to the agent, references will be given, and written testimonials exhibited.

All letters, post-paid, addressed to J. Lincoln, No. 27, Fayette Street, will be attended to.

Boston, Feb. 6, 1829.

## NEW BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

**J**UST published by COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street.

The Waning Moon, by the author of the Rising Sun; The White Palfrey, by the author of Thomas Mansfield; The Kind and Happy Child, by the author of the White Palfrey, &c.

## FRENCH WATER COLORS.

**C**OTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have for sale, the following Water Colors, of an excellent quality, manufactured by P. C. Lamberlye, (France,) viz: Bistre, Raw Cassel, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Egyptian Brown, Vandyke Brown, Brown Pink, Seppia, Violet Lake, Carmine Lake, Sanders Blue, Prussian Blue, Mineral Blue, Indigo, Yellow Ochre, Yellow Mineral, Gamboge, Yellow Orpiment, Yellow Lake, Naples Yellow, Burnt Italian Earth, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna, Italian Earth, Crocus Martial, Green Lake, Sanders Green, Sap Green, Mineral Green, Prussian Green, Vermillion, Saturnine Red, Indian Red, Red Ochre, Red Orpiment, Flake White.

Also—a great variety of Newman's, Ackerman's, Reeves's and Osborne's Colors, in boxes and separate cakes.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVERSATIONS.

**C**OTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have just published, Sunday School Conversations on some of the interesting subjects recorded in the New Testament. By the author of the Factory Girl, The Badge, James Talbot, &c.

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